

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236920

TOSEC 223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, MO

SUBJECT: INR ROUNDUP OF RABAT SUMMIT OPENING AS OF EDT 1200

1. REACTION TO ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATION ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION LIMITED SO FAR. JORDANIAN COMMENTS RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, INDICATING HUSAYN IS PROBABLY HOPEFUL OF STEMMING TIDE ONCE LEADERS THEMSELVES TACKLE ISSUE.

2. HUSAYN ARRIVAL IN RABAT ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 25 SEEMS TO PRECLUDE JORDANIAN BOYCOTT OF SUMMIT ITSELF AS A RESULT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS' VOTE. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO QUOTED BY AP AS SAYING JORDAN WOULD ATTEND SUMMIT "BECAUSE JORDAN IS ALWAYS POSITIVE." REUTERS REPORTED OPTIMISM AMONG THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION AT RABAT THAT AN OPEN RIFT COULD BE AVOIDED AT THE SUMMIT. AMMAN PRESS, MEANWHILE, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMMINENT MEETING OF ARAB LEADERS.

3. PALESTINIANS APPEAR PLEASED BY RABAT PROCEEDINGS UP TO NOW. PLO LEADER ABD AL-MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR CHARACTERIZED THE

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FOREIGN MINISTERS' VOTE AS IN "AUTHENTIC HARMONY WITH THE

WILL OF THE ARAB NATION" (FBIS), WHILE "A HIGHLY PLACED PALESTINIAN SOURCE" EXPECTED JORDAN TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO OVERTURN THE PROPOSAL AND HINTED THAT SOME MAJOR ARAB COUNTRIES MIGHT CHANGE THEIR STAND (AP).

4. OF ARAB DELEGATIONS NOTED ARRIVING IN RABAT ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 25, ONLY IRAQI DELEGATION NOT HEADED BY CHIEF OF STATE, PRESIDENT AL-BAKR BEING REPRESENTED BY REGIME STRONGMAN SADDAM HUSAYN. ONLY OTHER HEAD OF STATE LIKELY TO BE MISSING IS LIBYA'S QADHAFI, WHO APPARENTLY LIMITING REPRESENTATION TO LIBYAN CHARGE IN RABAT.

5. CAIRO MENA (MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY) REPORTED FROM RABAT THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE, WHICH OPENED WITH PUBLIC MEETING AT 1100 EDT, OCTOBER 26, IS:

--(A) THE ARAB AND THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION;

--(B) MILITARY COOPERATION AMONG THE ARAB STATES;

--(C) STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG THE ARAB COUNTRIES;

--(D) FOLLOWING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS;

--(E) FIXING THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

THE SUMMIT WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PREPARED BY THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH, IN ADDITION TO THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE, INCLUDED A CALL FOR CONVENING A CONFERENCE OF ARAB AND AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CAIRO BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

6. NO NEW HARD EVIDENCE INDICATING DEGREE OF EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COOPERATION, OR LACK OF IT, HAS BECOME AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, CAIRO MENA ON OCTOBER 25 REFERRED TO A BILATERAL WORKING PAPER FROM WHICH THE TWO DELEGATIONS WORKED DURING THE JUST CONCLUDED CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAPER WAS SAID TO HAVE REPRESENTED AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING SEVEN POINTS:

--(A) THE ISSUE IS THE SAME FOR ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE SAME DEGREE;

--(B) NO SURRENDER OF ONE INCH OF ARAB TERRITORY;

--(C) NO DIFFERENCE OF COMMITMENT TO THE LIBERATION OF SINAI, GOLAN, JERUSALEM, THE WEST BANK, OR THE GAZA STRIP;

--(D) ANY PALESTINIAN TERRITORY LIBERATED THROUGH STRUGGLE OR ANY OTHER METHOD SHOULD REVERT TO THE PALESTINE PEOPLE;

--(E) NO INTER-ARAB DIFFERENCES OVER OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE TOLERATED, WHILE DIFFERENCES OVER METHODS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE;

--(F) NO SEPARATE PEACE, AND ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE FULL AND FINAL;

--(G) THE ARABS SHOULD GO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BEFORE, AND NOT AFTER, COORDINATION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE FRONTLINE COUNTRIES AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND WITH THE TWO CO-SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE.

7. ANOTHER CAIRO MENA REPORT OF OCTOBER 25 SAID THAT A SPECIAL MEETING WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE PUBLIC OPENING SESSION AT RABAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO. THE LIBYAN-SUPPORTED BEIRUT PAPER AS-SAFIR REPORTED ON OCTOBER 26 THAT SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO STOP CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PLO AT RABAT.

8. WE HAVE SEEN NO NEW INDICATIONS ABOUT HOW FAYSAL INTENDS TO PLAY HIS HAND. HUSAYN EVIDENTLY IS COUNTING HEAVILY ON HIS FELLOW MONARCH TO ROLL BACK THE TIDE THAT RESULTED IN THE OCTOBER 25 RECOMMENDATION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. IF FAYSAL'S ASSISTANCE IS NOT FORTHCOMING, OR THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF OTHER LIKELY POTENTIAL SUP-
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PORTERS (FOR EXAMPLE, SADAT AND HASSAN) FAIL TO PRODUCE A COMPROMISE SOLUTION JORDAN CAN LIVE WITH, THE PROSPECTS OF A HUSAYN WALKOUT WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED. INGERSOLL

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